perspective, India needs its own cultural policy to strengthen its identity. I appeal to all the hon. Members and the Minister to endeavour for it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK): Shri Aimaduddin Ahmed Khan (Durru) - not present. Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao.

Impudent depiction of Mahatma Gandhi

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am raising this issue with a deep sense of humiliation because the way the Father of our Nation, in recent months, irrevered. First, Mr. Naipaul, while addressing a gathering of people of Indian origin, said, "Gandhi utterly failed in South Africa". Then, a magazine called 'Maxim' is running graphics depicting a strapping man in a T-shirt beating up Gandhiji's images. And, now, MTV (USA) has depicted Gandhiji's animated clone who sports earrings. It has come out with a series of spoofs on Mahatma. I do not know whether these incidents have come to the notice of the Government of India. This is an utter irreverence paid to a man snatched away 55 years ago by assassin's bullet. And, to our utter dismay, there has not been a single protest -political or diplomatic -- from the Government of India on any of the above happenings. How dare any one cause aspersions on Gandhi's success? How dare the foot soldiers' of West's consumerist army induct him in their gimmicky features? How dare and with what motive are they indulging in these type of things on a man who was famous for his *Ahimsa* with a right to freedom of expression? Hence, I demand that the Government of India must immediately lodge the strongest protest, through all possible means, with the countries concerned and see that such things are withdrawn and do not recur in future.

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this Special Mention.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक): माननीय मंत्री जी, यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है जो गांधी जी के विषय में है। उस पर जरा कार्यवाई कीजिएगा ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): The views expressed by the hon. Members will be conveyed to the Government.

Need to conduct a study on environmental impact of sea sand mining

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Mr. Vice-chairman, Sir, the Government of Kerala learnt, to have signed a memorandum of understanding with a private firm of deep sand mining in the Global Investors Meet recently held in Kochi where hon. Minister Mr. Arun Shourie was also present. It is also learnt that a Bahrain-based private company with whom the Government of Kerala entered into an agreement has also been authorised to conduct a feasibility study on the environmental impact of sea sand mining. Even though the Central Government is the authority to control over the mining activities, the State Government of Kerala has not sought the opinion of the Central Government even on the environmental impact before signing the MoU. The dredging of deep sea is likely to cause irreparable damage to the marine eco-system and traditional fishing sector. If the project is implemented, it would lead to massive destruction of sea resources including fish wealth and coastal erosion and other environmental aspects. The sea sand mining may lead to uncontrolled spilling of chemicals into the sea and the turbulence and disturbance of mining will adversely affect the marine life.

Since the project of deep sea sand mining has been an issue of serious apprehension in many aspects, the Government of India may conduct a study on the environmental impact of sea sand mining and till then no project should be given approval.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by the hon. Member.

Demand for allocation of subsidized rice to all families living below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, a very peculiar situation has cropped up in my home State of Andhra Pradesh in respect of families living below the poverty line. The